

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 PANAMA 02486 121716Z  
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 SAB-02 H-02  
PA-02 /031 W

-----102913 131021Z /15

R 121610Z APR 78  
FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6522  
INFO PANCANAL  
USCINCSO

UNCLAS PANAMA 2486

DEPT FOR ARA/PAF AND PAN

USCINCSO FOR J-2 AND PAO

PANCANAL FOR IO

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: SOPN, PN  
SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTIONS

FOLLOWING FROM ICA/PANAMA P R 121603Z APR 78 SENT ACTION  
USINFO WASHDC INFO SECSTATE WASHDC REPEATED TO YOU:

QUOTE UNCLAS

MEDIA REACTION

E.O. 11652: N/A  
1-PANAMA CITY.--CARL ROWAN INTERVIEW OF GEN. TORRIJOS CONTINUE  
TO RECEIVE PROMINENT PLAY IN ALL MEDIA APRIL 12, WITH PRO-GOP  
CRITICA DEVOTING ENTIRE EDITORIAL TO QUOTES FROM INTERVIEW.  
EDIT'S TITLE ITSELF DRAWN FROM TORRIJOS QUOTE IN INTERVIEW,  
"HAVE WE LOST A WAR? EVEN JAPAN WAS NOT ASKED SO MUCH." EDIT  
CONCLUDES THAT "DILEMMA FOR NATION IS TRULY TREMENDOUS. THESE  
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EXTREME SITUATIONS ARE THE KIND THAT MAKE A PEOPLE GREAT, ABOVE  
ALL IF THE TONIC OF HOPE IS LOST. WE ARE NOT HOPEFUL THAT  
JUSTICE WILL PREVAIL SOON IN OUR LATIN AMERICA, BUT WE MUST  
REMAIN FIRM THAT NEITHER SHALL IT BE POSSIBLE FOR INIQUITY TO  
PREDOMINATE BY THE WHIM OF THE ENSLAVING SUPERPOWER."

2-ROWAN INTERVIEW ALSO FORMS LARGE PART OF DIANA AROSEMENA SPECIAL

ARTICLE APPEARING FRONT PAGE OF ALL SPANISH MORNINGS. MATUTINO HEADS STORY, "U.S. JOURNALIST CARL ROWAN BELIEVES ANYONE IN SENATE WHO THINKS THAT PANAMANIAN WILL ACCEPT THE U.S. SENDING TROOPS WILL BE IN FOR A BIG SURPRISE." AROSEMENA ITEM ALSO QUOTES EXTENSIVELY FROM WASHINGTON POST ARTICLE ON BACKGROUND OF DECONCINI RESERVATION.

3-AROSEMENA INCLUDES SUCH EDITORIAL COMMENT TO HER ARTICLE AS, "NO ONE SHOULD BE SURPRISED AT THIS (FURIOUS) ATTITUDE OF THE CHIEF OF GOVERNMENT, SINCE THIS IMPULSIVE REPULSION IS EQUAL TO THAT OF ANY OTHER PANAMANIAN, WITH THE DIFFERENCE THAT TORRIJOS CANNOT PERMIT HIMSELF THE LUXURY OF ACTING ON IMPULSE. . . THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION COMMITTED A GRAVE ERROR WHEN IT TOOK THE DESPERATE DECISION TO SETTLE FOR THE DECONCINI RESERVATION. NOW THEY WANT TO RESCUE THE TREATIES AND REPAIR THE DAMAGE. THE CONCLUSION COMES IN A FEW DAYS AND WE WILL SOON KNOW THE RESULT."

4-SEMI-INDEPENDENT LA ESTRELLA CARRIES THREE AP ITEMS ON FRONT PAGE BESIDES AROSEMENA ARTICLE, INCLUDING TWO RICHARD PYLE STORIES, "BYRD: I HAVE RECEIVED NO INDICATION THAT PANAMA WILL REJECT TREATIES," AND "PANAMA REJECTED DECONCINI RESERVATION BEFORE VOTE; CARTER KNEW IT." SECOND ARTICLE CLAIMS CARTER KNEW TWO DAYS BEFORE NEUTRALITY TREATY VOTE THAT PANAMANIAN WOULD FIND DECONCINI RESERVATION "UNACCEPTABLE."

5-EDITORIAL COMMENT LIGHT AND MODERATE. TELEVISION COMMENTARIES UNCLASSIFIED

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DID NOT REFER TO TREATY ISSUE APRIL 11. APRIL 11 AFTERNOONER LA REPUBLICA EDIT ONCE MORE TAKES LINE THAT PANAMAIS ARE SHOWING BY THEIR CALM THAT THEY ARE POLITICALLY MATURE, EVEN THOUGH "THE ENEMIES OF PANAMA WOULD LIKE NOTHING BETTER THAN TO SEE THIS COUNTRY IN FLAMES NOW." EDIT CONCLUDES, "WE KNOW HOW TO WAIT, TO CONTINUE PRESENTING MEASURED AND SENSIBLE REASONING SO THAT IT WILL BE KNOWN EVERYWHERE THAT RIGHT IS ON OUR SIDE AND THAT IF SOMETHING ELSE HAPPENS IT WILL BE THE FAULT OF THE AGGRESSORS."

6-COLUMNIST LUIS RESTREPO ALSO COMMENDS PANAMANIAN FOR REMAINING CALM, AND CONTINUING WITH EVERYDAY LIFE DURING DIFFICULT MOMENTS, EVEN THOUGH, "TO LISTEN TO THE PEOPLE IN THESE DAYS IS TO KNOW THAT THERE IS NO DESPERATION, NO VACILLATION, NO FEAR. THERE IS ANGER: . . ANGER WHICH IS SUPPRESSED BECAUSE THE CIRCUMSTANCES DEMAND IT, BUT WHICH WILL SURELY NEVER PERMIT FORGIVENESS FOR THOSE WHO FOR MONTHS HAVE OFFERED WITH IMPUNITY THE LOWEST COMMENTS, THE MOST DAMAGING INSULTS AGAINST A NATION WHICH AT ALL TIMES HAS DEMONSTRATED THE ABILITY TO OVERCOME AND TAKE RESPONSIBILITY IN THE FACE OF ALL ITS PROBLEMS."

7-TIME, SAYS RESTREPO, IS ON THE PANAMANIAN'S SIDE: "WE

PANAMANIAN KNOW. . . THAT THE LAST THIRD OF THIS CENTURY WILL BE  
MORE DANGEROUS FOR THE U.S. THAN FOR ANY OTHER NATION ON EARTH.  
THROUGHOUT THE WORLD THAT NATION HAS COMMITTED SO MANY  
DEPREDATIONS, SO MANY CRIMES AGAINST THE PEOPLE THAT ONE CAN  
EXPECT A WORLD CRUSADE TO END THE DANGER THAT THAT NATION  
REPRESENTS FOR THE PEACE AND SURVIVAL OF THE WORLD." ITEM  
JORDEN

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## Message Attributes

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